

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS.**

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES,  
COOPERATING.

STATES RELATIONS SERVICE, OFFICE OF  
EXTENSION WORK, NORTH AND WEST.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

**BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK.****COMMON POULTRY DISEASES.**

Prepared in the Animal Husbandry Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.

While it is often possible to prevent disease to a great extent by keeping the fowls as well as their houses and surroundings clean and sanitary, nevertheless in practically every flock fowls from time to time contract some disease or disorder that interferes with their growth or production.

In most instances it is not practicable to attempt to cure one or two sick fowls, for even though they are apparently cured, their value as producers or breeders will be lessened, or the disease may reappear and endanger other fowls. It is advisable to attempt a cure only when the disease is common throughout a flock; or in case of a fowl which is very valuable and an effective cure seems probable.

**GENERAL PREVENTION.**

Other than by keeping the poultry house, drinking fountains, hoppers, and surroundings clean and sanitary, healthy fowls in a flock may be prevented from catching disease by immediately removing those that show signs of disease. In this case, it is well to give the flock an antiseptic, such as potassium permanganate in the drinking water, as described under roup, and to spray and clean the houses and appliances thoroughly with a 10 per cent solution of crude carbolic acid or some coal-tar product in water.

Usually a fowl that is not well can be told by the fact that it is not as active as the others, stands around in an out-of-the-way place, and shows little disposition to eat. Such a fowl should be immediately removed from the flock and if seriously sick should be killed and the carcass burned rather than buried.

**COMMON DISEASES, SYMPTOMS, AND TREATMENT.****ROUP.**

Roup is a highly contagious disease, spreading from one bird to another very quickly. The disease is very common in the fall, especially in poorly ventilated, damp houses. (Fig. 1.)

*Treatment.*—Remove the sick birds to a warm, dry, well-ventilated room that is free from drafts. Syringe the nostrils, by means of a medicine dropper, with a solution of 1 teaspoonful



FIG. 1.—A fowl with roup.



of common salt to a quart of water. The eyes may be bathed gently with the same solution. Grease around the nostrils and eyes with pure or carbolated vaseline. Dissolve in each gallon of drinking water as much potassium permanganate as will remain on the surface of a dime. The flock should have no other drinking water than that containing potassium permanganate. It is good practice to use potassium permanganate in the drinking water as a preventive as soon as the cool weather begins in the fall.

#### CANKER.

This disease causes cheese-like patches to form in the membrane of the mouth and tongue.

*Treatment.*—Sprinkle a little sulphur in the mouth and throat of the bird. Another effective treatment consists of washing the sore patches with a mixture of equal parts of hydrogen peroxid and water.

#### CHOLERA.

This is probably one of the worst diseases that affect poultry, for it spreads rapidly and in most cases the cure is unsatisfactory. The usual symptoms of cholera are as follows: The fowl is troubled with diarrhea, the droppings become watery and yellow or green in color; the

fowl is depressed; the feathers ruffled; and the comb is either very pale or very dark. Fowls affected with cholera usually have a great thirst but poor appetite. Frequently many so-called cases of cholera are simply diarrhea. Fowls having cholera usually die within 36 hours.

*Treatment.*—The most satisfactory method of combating this disease is to kill and burn all fowls that are really affected. Clean and spray all water fountains and the houses thoroughly with a 10 per cent solution of carbolic acid and water or one of the coal-tar products and water. The droppings should either be buried deep, burned, or sprayed with the above solution.

#### LIMBER NECK.

This disease is characterized by the fact that the fowl's neck is limp and can not hold the head erect. The disease is a form of food

poisoning, and is caused by the fowl's feeding on decomposed animal flesh. (Fig. 2.)

*Treatment.*—Two teaspoonfuls of castor oil given to the fowls will sometimes cure them. In all cases an effort should be made to find the cause of the disease, which is usually a dead animal or fowl that has decomposed and is being eaten by the birds. All carcasses should be deeply buried or burned when found.

#### CHICKEN POX, OR SORE HEAD.

This is a very contagious disease that occurs in all classes of poultry. It may be told by the yellow patches or nodules that appear about the beak, face, and comb.

*Treatment.*—Cover the sore patches with carbolated vaseline, or if this is not effective, apply a touch of iodine.



FIG. 2.—A bad case of wry neck.



### WHITE COMB, OR FAVUS.

The general symptom of this disease are white or grayish spots that form on the comb, wattles, ear lobes, and other parts of the body. It spreads from one fowl to another, and birds so affected should be removed from the flock. (Fig. 3.)

*Treatment.*—When the disease affects only the bare parts of the head and face, it can sometimes be cured by applying iodine. Another effective remedy is that of applying an ointment composed of 1 part of powdered sulphur mixed with 9 parts of carbolated vaseline. In applying this the affected parts should be merely anointed and not rubbed over, as rubbing tends to spread the disease. Repeated applications should be made every three days until the affection disappears. If the feathered portions of the body are affected, it is better to kill the fowl, as it usually requires considerable time to effect a cure.



FIG. 3.—White Leghorn cockerel with favus, or “white comb.”

### FROZEN COMB.

Frozen or frostbitten combs frequently occur in cold weather, especially with birds having large single combs. Fowls having lopped single combs or rose combs are not so susceptible, due principally to the comb being closer to the head.

*Treatment.*—Applying snow or cold water to frozen combs before they thaw will frequently save them. If they are thawed by this method vaseline should be applied to the frozen parts at least once a day for several days.

### DIARRHEA IN HENS.

Diarrhea is usually caused by a change in the quality or quantity of food, excessive green or meat food, and very hot weather. One of the best cures is to deprive the fowl of all green or meat foods, and wet mashes, and feed a dry mash and grain feed. A teaspoonful of castor oil or sweet oil, with five drops of oil of turpentine added, will frequently check the trouble.



## WHITE DIARRHEA.

This is probably the most dreaded of chick diseases, it being very contagious and fatal in its results. It can easily be told by the fact that the chicks tend to droop their wings, are sleepy in appearance, and show little or no desire to eat; assume almost a ball shape; and the whitish-brown droppings adhere to the vent and fluff, causing them to become "pasted up behind." (Fig. 4.)

*Treatment.*—Chicks that have reached the advanced stages of this disease should be removed, killed, and burned.

Ten grains of permanganate of potash should be added to each gallon of drinking water and kept before the chicks until they are at least 4 weeks old.



FIG. 4.—Chicks with white diarrhea.

## GAPES.

This trouble is due to the presence of small worms that have attached themselves to the inside of the chick's windpipe. The characteristic symptom is the frequent gaping of the chick in its effort to expel the worms.

*Treatment.*—Due to the fact that gapeworms are usually found on ground that has been used for some time as a range for poultry, the best remedy is to remove the chicks to a new range. The ground so infected should be thoroughly limed and plowed and not used for young chicks for at least two seasons. As an individual treatment, the worms can oftentimes be removed by means of a looped horseshair. Good results have been obtained by adding 15 grains of salicylic acid to each quart of drinking water.

## CROP BOUND.

This disorder is caused by the crop becoming overloaded with feed to such an extent that the muscular walls become partially paralyzed and thus unable to work off the accumulated food. The trouble can be told by the fact that the crop is hard and firm and protrudes noticeably.

*Treatment.*—Ordinarily this trouble can be overcome by pouring half an ounce of melted lard or sweet oil down the throat and working the crop with the hand, so as to allow the oil or lard to mix with the feed. When this is done, the food will usually pass away in a few hours.



## SCALY LEG.

This is most frequently found among old fowls and is caused by small mites that burrow under the scales of the shanks and feet and there multiply in numbers. (Fig. 5.)

*Treatment.*—Most often kerosene applied to the fowl's legs and feet will be found an effective remedy.



FIG. 5.—A male bird affected with scaly leg.

## BUMBLE FOOT.

Bumble foot is caused by bruises forming on the bottom of the feet, usually due to the fowls jumping from high roosts to a hard floor. To remove the cause, lower the roosts. When the foot is badly swollen, a small cut should be made with a clean, sharp knife, and the pus

removed. Wash the wound out with equal parts of hydrogen peroxid and water, grease with vaseline, and bandage with a piece of cloth. (Fig. 6.)



FIG. 6.—A case of bumble foot.

NOTE.—This is one of a series of follow-up circulars on poultry (the K series) printed for the exclusive use of club members and club leaders. Other persons desiring poultry literature should write to their State agricultural college or ask for the bulletins noted on the next page.



# LIST OF PUBLICATIONS OF U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RELATING TO POULTRY.

## AVAILABLE FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION BY THE DEPARTMENT.

Standard Varieties of Chickens. (Farmers' Bulletin 51.)  
 Poultry Management. (Farmers' Bulletin 287.)  
 Pheasant Raising in the United States. (Farmers' Bulletin 390.)  
 Capons and Caponizing. (Farmers' Bulletin 452.)  
 Hints to Poultry Raisers. (Farmers' Bulletin 528.)  
 Important Poultry Diseases. (Farmers' Bulletin 530.)  
 Boys' and Girls' Poultry Clubs. (Farmers' Bulletin 562.)  
 Poultry House Construction. (Farmers' Bulletin 574.)  
 Natural and Artificial Incubation of Hens' Eggs. (Farmers' Bulletin 585.)  
 Natural and Artificial Brooding of Chickens. (Farmers' Bulletin 624.)  
 Simple Trap Nest for Poultry. (Farmers' Bulletin 682.)  
 Squab Raising. (Farmers' Bulletin 684.)  
 Duck Raising. (Farmers' Bulletin 687.)  
 Goose Raising. (Farmers' Bulletin 767.)  
 Turkey Raising. (Farmers' Bulletin 791.)  
 Mites and Lice on Poultry. (Farmers' Bulletin 801.)  
 Standard Varieties of Chickens. I. The American Class. (Farmers' Bulletin 806.)

## FOR SALE BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS, GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Guinea Fowl and Its Use as Food. (Farmers' Bulletin 234.) Price, 5 cents.  
 Commercial Fattening of Poultry. (Department Bulletin 21.) Price, 10 cents.  
 White Diarrhea of Chicks, with Notes on Coccidiosis in Birds. (Bureau of Animal Industry Circular 126.) Price, 5 cents.  
 A System of Poultry Accounting. (Bureau of Animal Industry Circular 176.) Price, 5 cents.



